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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bright from the Start Encourages Educators to Participate in Zoo Atlanta Event

ATLANTA, Ga., (February 29, 2012) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will again partner with Zoo Atlanta as they host Educator Appreciation Day on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Early care and education professionals throughout the state are welcome to bring their families to the Zoo for a day of fun-filled activities.

Educator Appreciation Day will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. where educators will receive free admission and \$2 off general admission for each of their guests. Please note that educator identification is required: types of ID include an employee ID with a photo; a pay stub or name badge imprinted with school name or county along with a state-issued photo ID; or a homeschool declaration of intent and a state-issued photo ID. Pre-registration for this special event is available on the Zoo's website at http://www.zooatlanta.org/home/article_content/educator_appreciation_day.

“This is a great opportunity for educators all across the state to come and experience Zoo Atlanta, with free admission for them and discounts for their guests,” said Bobby Cagle, commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. “In addition to the great zoo experience, educators can visit the Educator Lounge at the Ford Tent for private animal encounters and a chance to talk with the Zoo's education staff.”

In addition, guests will receive a coupon for 10 percent off purchases in the gift shop and food outlets.

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About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decal.ga.gov.